

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22033

This legislation provides the Idaho State Board of Medicine (Board) with the authority to act in full accordance with its statutory duty to "assure the public health, safety and welfare in the state by the licensure and regulation of physicians." This legislation amends section 54-1814, Idaho Code, which currently provides for grounds for discipline and the Board's authority to impose discipline, to include two (2) additional grounds for discipline. The addition of section 54-1814 (23), Idaho Code, provides the Board with the statutory authority to ensure the ability of its licensees to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety subsequent to being convicted of or pleading guilty to drug or alcohol related criminal charges such as driving under the influence. This legislation optimally provides opportunities for those licensees to seek recovery and rehabilitation early on in the disease process. The addition of section 54-1814 (24), Idaho Code, provides the Board with the statutory authority to enforce Board orders and procedural mechanisms whether or not the licensee continued to practice after the entry of the previous consent order suspending the practitioner, as well as the failure to pay the fines and costs.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will provide the state a financial and labor savings by avoiding costly litigation in appeals.

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